



Department of State

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO. OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CMAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-16 NIC-01 IO-14 EA-11 EUR-26 ACDA-19

AID-20 DRG-01 /187

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6274

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 7814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJ: DOWNED PAK HELICOPTER

REF: A. KABUL 5023

B. ISLAMABAD 7763

C. ISLAMABAD 7701

1. MFA DIRGEN FOR AFGHANISTAN MANSUR AHMED TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT DOWNED HELICOPTER ALOUETTE ON LOAN TO FRONTIER WORKS ORGANIZATION ENROUTE TO CHITRAL TO GILGIT BEFORE SCHEDULED FUEL STOP AT DROSH, HE SAID, AIRCRAFT RADIO QUIT AND HELICOPTER STRAYED INTO AFGHANISTAN. DIRGEN DID NOT KNOW IF CRAFT FORCED DOWN BY AFGHANS OR NOT, AS THERE HAD BEEN NO CONTACT WITH IT AFTER RADIO FAILURE. AHMED SAID CHOPPER CARRIED THREE-MAN MILITARY CREW, HEADED, HE THOUGHT, BY MAJOR, AND ONE PASSENGER, DIRGEN FWO, WHO HE SAID WAS EITHER ACTIVE OR RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER.

2. ACCORDING TO MANSURE AHMED AFGHAN MFA CALLED IN PAK CHARGE AND PROTESTED PAK VIOLATION OF AFGHAN AIRSPACE.

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5/21/90

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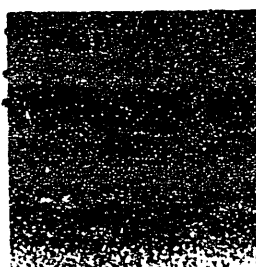
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DIRGEN UNCERTAIN WHETHER GOA WILL HAND OVER CREW AND HELICOPTER OR NOT AS REQUESTED BY BOP.

3. AHMED NOTED RUEFULLY THAT TIMING OF INCIDENT WAS "MOST UNFORTUNATE AND EMBARRASSING" FOR PAKS, COMING SOON AFTER GOP HAD REFUTED GOA CHARGES PAK PLANES HAD VIOLATED AFGHAN AIRSPACE IN QUETTA/KANDAHAR (REFTEL C). HE MENTIONED THAT PAKS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN CHECKING OUT EARLIER ALLEGATIONS AND HAD ONLY DENIED AFGHAN CHARGE AFTER THREE-DAY INVESTIGATION.

4. MEANWHILE PAK PRESS CONTINUED DRUMBEAT OF ANTI-AFGHAN ALLEGATIONS. TODAY'S FEATURE REPORTED THAT GOA HAD SENT AFGHAN TRAINED GUERRILLAS TO ATTACK PM BHUTTO DURING HIS BALUCHISTAN TRIP AND HINTED AT AN AFGHAN CONNECTION WITH REPORTED QUETTA ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AUGUST 2. PRESS ALSO CARRIED REPORT BY MUSLIM DIVINE ABOUT PERSECUTION OF ULEMA IN AFGHANISTAN.

5. HOWEVER, QUESTION OF HELICOPTER DOWNING WAS MINIMIZED IN TODAY'S PRESS. KARACHI MORNING NEWS CARRIED STORY WHICH REPEATED ALL INDIA RADIO ACCOUNT. AIR QUOTED RADIO KABUL AS SAYING AFGHANISTAN HAD WARNED PAKISTAN OF "GRAVE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH PROVOCATIVE VIOLATIONS OF AFGHAN AIRSPACE". KABUL ARTICLE SAID, HAD ALSO ACCUSED GOP OF FALSELY DENYING PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS OF AIRSPACE. BYROADE

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